



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
5 KC RESIDENTS, 1 BETHANY MAN INDICTED
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that six area residents were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's indictments, Graves said, are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Ellery H. Beals**, 22, of Kansas City, was charged in a two-count superseding indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of two firearms.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Beals** was in possession of a Hi-Point .380-caliber semi-automatic pistol on Feb. 24, 2004. Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Beals** was in possession of a Sturm, Ruger and Company .223-caliber assault rifle on Feb. 8, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Beals** has two 2003 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance and trafficking and two 2003 criminal felony convictions for being an unlawful user of a weapon.

Beals was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 26, 2004, in Kansas City. Today's superseding indictment replaces the original indictment.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Marcel Small**, 39, of Kansas City, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Small** was in possession of a Glock .40-caliber semi-automatic pistol on Nov. 2, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Small** has a 1996 criminal felony conviction for burglary, a 1994 criminal felony conviction for robbery and a 1990 criminal felony conviction for burglary.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **David Wayne Cameron**, 37, of Bethany, was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Cameron** was in possession of a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun on Feb. 29, 2004. Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Cameron** was in possession of two Remington 12-gauge shotgun shells and five Winchester 12-gauge shotgun shells on Feb. 29, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Cameron** has a 1988 criminal felony conviction for tampering and a 1986 criminal felony conviction for stealing.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **John B. Taylor**, 29, of Kansas City, was charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm and an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Taylor** was in possession of a Fabrique Nationale .32-caliber semi-automatic pistol on June 9, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Taylor** has a 2000 criminal felony conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm and a 1998 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Taylor** was an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm on June 9, 2004. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. The indictment alleges that **Taylor** was an unlawful user of cocaine while also in possession of a Fabrique Nationale .32-caliber semi-automatic pistol.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Pedro Barraza-Lizarraga**, 48, of Kansas City, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being an illegal alien in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Barraza-Lizarraga**, a citizen of Mexico, was in possession of a Marlin .30-caliber lever-action rifle on Oct. 24, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any illegal alien to be in possession of any firearm.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

* **Demetrius A. Hooker**, 25, of Kansas City, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Hooker** was in possession of a loaded Star .45-caliber pistol on Aug. 30, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Hooker** has a 1999 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel M. Nelson. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in these indictments are simply accusations and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow